

## Remarks

In the present response, claims 1-29 are presented for examination.

### Claim Rejections: 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,779,031 (Picher) in view of US application number 2006/0168318 (Twiss). These rejections are traversed.

Each of the independent claims recites one or more elements that are not taught or suggested in Picher in view of Twiss. These missing elements show that the differences between the combined teachings in the art and the recitations in the claims are great. As such, the pending claims are not a predictable variation of the art to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Claim 1 recites an access point that has three elements: (1) a web server interface, (2) a usage collector, and (3) web cache software. The access point and these three elements are provided “in a single device.” This single device “links the one or more guests on personal computers to a broadband or telephone connector from which Internet access is obtained for the personal computers. Nowhere does the art of record teach or even suggest a single device that includes the three claim elements.

Figure 2 in Picher shows a plurality of separate devices that include a database 240, an event server 230, a node server 225, a database server 235, an RSVP node server 225, etc. Picher does not teach an access point that is a single device as claimed. Again, Picher teaches a plurality of various servers, databases, etc. Further, Picher does not teach or suggest a single device that links guests on personal computers to a broadband or telephone connector from which Internet access is obtained for the personal computers as recited in claim 1.

Figure 4c in Twiss shows a gateway node 408 or P2P cache that “caches both network and download traffic and may cache one or both of inbound and outbound traffic (forward and reverse) caching” (see Twiss at paragraph [0065]). Twiss does not teach or suggest that the gateway node 408 links guests on personal computers to a broadband or telephone connector from which Internet access is obtained for the personal computers as recited in claim 1. By contrast, Figure 4c in Twiss shows a separate device (router 414)

that links personal computers 410 to the Internet 416. This router 414 is a separate device from the gateway node 408 which functions as a P2P cache.

Even assuming *arguendo* that Picher and Twiss are properly combinable (which they are not), this combination fails to teach or suggest a single device that links guests on personal computers to a broadband or telephone connector from which Internet access is obtained for the personal computers. Thus, Picher and Twiss, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest an access point that is a single device having the separate elements that link guests on personal computers to a broadband or telephone connector from which Internet access is obtained for the personal computers.

The differences between the claims and the teachings in the art are great since the references fail to teach or suggest all of the claim elements. As such, the pending claims are not a predictable variation of the art to one of ordinary skill in the art.

For at least these reasons, the claims are allowable over the art of record.

Applicants have amended several dependent claims to include recitations that are not taught or suggested in Picher in view of Twiss. Applicants respectfully ask the Examiner to review and consider such amended dependent claims.

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the above, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to Philip S. Lyren at Telephone No. 832-236-5529. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,

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